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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Letter dated 12 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the Third Space Conference of the Americas, which was held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 4 to 8 November 1996.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the Punta del Este Declaration, adopted at that meeting and attached hereto (see annex), circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83.

(Signed) Jorge PÉREZ-OTERMIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Uruguay
to the United Nations

96-32739 (E) 211196 211196

ANNEX

Punta del Este Declaration

The Third Space Conference of the Americas

1. Emphasizes the importance of the Conference as a forum that reflects the interest of all participating countries in promoting cooperation in the area of space activities and reaffirms the commitment of the States of the region to the exploration and peaceful use of space activities;

2. Reiterates and reaffirms the importance of making further progress in the formulation of norms that will promote the development of international space law. In this connection, the Conference expresses the hope that the United Nations General Assembly will adopt the declaration on principles of international cooperation in space matters which was adopted by consensus at the 1996 session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

3. Affirms that, in order to create and expand space capabilities in the countries of the region, the parties shall pursue continuity, coordination and stability in the long term as well as the development of technology in national space activities. The parties also agree to cooperate and interact as necessary to facilitate future projects;

4. Reaffirms the importance of international cooperation in space matters in an increasingly interdependent world and invites international agencies and organizations to strengthen their participation in support of space activities in the region;

5. Urges that national programmes, government agencies and international organizations support educational activities in the fields of science and technology and promote the work of scientific and academic groups participating in space projects and activities in the region;

6. Firmly believes that cooperation projects pertaining to outer space will lead to the broadest possible development and application of space technology;

7. Invites the United Nations system, particularly through the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to provide strong support for follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference;

8. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the necessary support to follow up the recommendations of the Conference. To this end, the Conference requests the Commission to include in its annual report to the United Nations General Assembly the actions taken in this area;

9. Supports the recommendation made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its 1996 session that an international meeting on space-

related topics, the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), should be held in 1999;

10. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the Space Conferences of the Americas continue to be held in the region every three years. During this time the pro tempore secretariat, which is located in the host country of the most recent Conference, shall provide follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and provide support for space cooperation in the region, to which end it may rely on the assistance of an inter-sessional group;

11. Endorses the conclusions and the work of the Conference as well as the projects presented in the various committees with express government support and financing from the countries proposing and participating in such projects, as noted in the report of the rapporteur;

12. Decides to adopt a plan of action for regional cooperation;

13. Urges the pro tempore secretariat of the Third Space Conference of the Americas to disseminate this Declaration and the other conclusions of the Conference to bilateral and multilateral forums and organizations;

14. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for convening and organizing the Third Space Conference of the Americas and for its efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.